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## October Briefing

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### Yankee Spy Plots

The police chief in the tiny resort town of Bridgton, Maine, had a suspicious eye on onetime CIA spymaster Max Hugel long before the scandal surrounding his stock dealings surfaced last summer. According to the police chief, Hugel was listed as of April 1 as the owner of lakeshore properties which suffered two "suspicious" fires, one of which, in 1977, was "definitely arson." Both fires struck a home on Hugel's property owned by brothers Thomas R., Samuel F., and Dennis McNell. The first two brothers disappeared last July after spilling the beans to *The Washington Post* about Hugel's questionable stock manipulations, in which they took part. The FBI is searching for them. The third brother's body was ordered exhumed from a Bridgton grave in August by New York City's Chief Medical Examiner, who suspected foul play. Dennis McNell died about a week after his brothers first contacted *The Post*, as doctors were preparing to operate on his ruptured spleen. FBI investigators have reportedly learned that Dennis McNell was abducted and beaten twice this year in connection with his brothers' dealings with Hugel.

The tax assessor in the small town, meanwhile, has had difficulty straightening out the ownership of the lakefront properties, believing that Hugel may have deeded them back to the McNells since April 1. "It's bounced back and forth between them so often, I can't keep track," said Janice Chadbourne.